

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 /095 W
-----001588 071618Z /47

P 071530Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5354
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: SHINUI AND AMIT FACTIONS TO FORM NEW PARTY
1. THE LOOSE ENDS OF THE MORIBUND DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
FOR CHANGE (DMC) HAVE BEEN ALL BUT WRAPPED UP WITH AN
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SHINUI FACTION, LED BY AMNON RUBIN-
STEIN, AND THE SMALLER GROUP LED BY TRANSPORT MINISTER
MEIR AMIT TO MERGE INTO A NEW PARTY. THE NEW PARTY WILL
CONTROL SEVEN OF THE FIFTEEN DMC KNESSET SEATS, THE SAME
NUMBER AS YADIN'S RUMP DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. THE FIFTEENTH
DMC MEMBER, ASSAF YAGURI, HAS FOR THE TIME BEING DECIDED
TO FORM A SEPARATE FACTION. HE IS RUMORED TO BE DEMANDING
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A DEPUTY MINISTERSHIP AS HIS PRICE FOR SIGNING ON WITH
YADIN. THE NEW PARTY, WHOSE NAME WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE
THE WORD SHINUI (CHANGE), WILL COMPRISE AN ESTIMATED 70
OF THE 135 MEMBERS OF THE FORMER DMC COUNCIL. ON THE
OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO ITS SECRETARY GENERAL, YADIN'S
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT HAS SECURED THE ALLEGIANCE OF 70
PERCENT OF THE BRANCHES OF THE DMC.

2. THE COUNCIL OF THE NEW SHINUI/AMIT PARTY PLANS TO MEET ON SEPTEMBER 14 TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITS TWO LEADERS. IT IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE AT THAT TIME TO LEAVE THE COALITION. AMIT RECENTLY TOLD THE POL COUNSELLOR THAT "ONLY A MIRACLE" AT CAMP DAVID COULD PERSUADE HIM TO STAY WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE IMPLIED THAT AN OUTCOME THAT PRODUCED ONLY AN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT HAVING ADDRESSED ANY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS, WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TO KEEP HIM IN THE CABINET. RUBIN-STEIN IS EVEN LESS INCLINED TO STICK WITH THE COALITION. IN THE MEANTIME, SHINUI/AMIT SPOKESMEN LIKE ALL OTHER POLITICIANS IN ISRAEL ARE MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE, SO AS TO AVOID ANY ACCUSATION THAT THEY MAY BE UNDERMINING BEGIN'S POSITION AT CAMP DAVID. VIETS

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